

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, August 21. 1708.

Review. **W** Here's my Lunatick now, that was to put a baulk upon all our good News from the *West-Indies*, and prove we had taken none of the Galeons?

Mad-Man. As mad as I am, I'll always keep my word with you; I am here Sir.

Rev. Well, and what have you to say now to our Taking the Galeons.

M. When, where, and what Galeons?

Rev. Nay those Questions are not at all improper, and I am ready for you there too; pray read the *Gazette*. —

London Gazette, Aug. 5.

" We have further Particulars of the Engagement between Her Majesty's Ships and the *Spanish* Galeons: That on the

" 28th of *May* the Fight began, about half an hour before Sun-set, when the three Flags lower'd their Top-sails, and lay by to fight us; and that tho' they were within Musquet-shot for the first six hours, the *British* had not a Man kill'd or wounded. The Rear-Admiral, which struck about three in the Morning, is a Ship of 54 Brass Guns, and very richly laden. On the 29th in the Morning the Enemy were dispers'd; and there being no Wind, we could not come up with them; but towards Night we took up seven Men of the Admiral, which blew up the Night before, who had sav'd themselves on a Wreck. On the 30th the *Kingston* and *Portland* cha'd the Vice-Admiral, and at last came up with her;

" her ; but after two or three Broad-sides,
 " were forc'd to leave her, she being got
 " amongst the Rocks of *Carthage*. On
 " the 1st of *June* we chac'd one of their
 " Capital Galeons a-shoar on the little
 " Brow, where the Enemy burnt her.

Is this plain, can you *Bedlamites* read,
 can you read *PUBLISH'D BY AUTHORITY*, put on the top of the Paper ; can
 you read *GALEON*, the Admiral and the
 Rear-Admiral, one blown up and another
 taken ? What say you to it ?

M. Nay if you come to quote Authorities I'll meet with you there ; and here
 is an Authority out of our *COLLEGE*,
 a better Man than any of your *Gazeteers*,
 the *Gazeteer* is but a Scribler, a Hackney,
 a Mercenary, a meer Scribler, mine is an
 Author, a Man of Degrees in the Case,
 and I'll set him against your Scribbling *Gazeteer*.

Rev. Pray before you proceed, will you
 do me the favour to tell me, the Difference
 between an Author of a Pamphlet, or
 Half-Penny Paper and a Scribler ?

M. The same that there is between a
 Collonel in the Army, and a General
 Officer.

Rev. How so ?

M. Why the Collonel Commands but
 one Regiment the General Officer, so your
Gazeteer is a single handed Writer, *Ergo* a
 Scribler like your self, Sir ; mine Sir, is a
 General Officer, in the Language of the
 Pamphleteers an Author — A *Monthly-
 Account-Observator-Flying-Post-Author* , a
 Gentleman that CAN if he pleases write
 very well SIR, and generally does so
 when he has a good Cause, and pray take
 him in the Case, I hope you won't bring
 your imperinent *Gazeteer* in competition
 with him.

Flying Post, Aug. 5.

" *Plymouth* Aug. 1. Yesterday arrived
 " the *Dolphin* of and for *London* from *Ja-
 maica*, with Sugar, in 7 Weeks. The
 " *Antegoa* Packet arrived 2 days before he
 " came away, and a Sloop from the *Spa-
 nish West Indies*, which gave an Ac-

" count, That Admiral *Wager* had taken
 " one *French* Man of War, sunk another,
 " and run a third a-shore, and was in
 " chase of several Galeons which came
 " from *Carthage*, under Convoy of the
 " above-mentioned 3 *French* Men of War,
 " and were bound to the *Havana*, to make
 " up their Fleet.

Now where are your Galeons, I think I
 have you now — All your Affair is, that
 you met some of the Galeons, Convoy'd by
 3 *French* Men of War, and your Commo-
 dore *Wager* fought the Convoys, having but
 three Ships of his own, and in the mean
 time the Galeons got all safe into *Carthage-
 na*, and will be ours when we CATCH—

Rev. You are more Knave than Madman
 still, and I told you at first you would
 prove so— All the upshot of this is a Satyr
 upon the Senceless Accounts, imposed upon
 the World by the News Writers — And
 really it is not so much a Satyr upon the
 News-Writers, but upon the World, that
 is content to be impos'd upon by them ;
 they have long since been made made Ri-
 diculous by their Nonsense, but 'tis end-
 less to oserve upon them — 'Tis the
 Madmen only that are imposed upon by
 them.

M. Don't tell me of being impos'd upon,
 the Thing is Matter of Fact ; he tells you
 they were *French* Men of War, and the *Ga-
 zette* must be an Impostor. —

Rev. Have a care what you say, Man of
Bedlam, the *Gazette* is the Voice of the
 Publick, and speaks by Authority.

M. Why then he is a Cheat by Autho-
 rity ; do not tell me of *Publick* and *Autho-
 rity* if they tell false News they are. —

Rev. What are they ? Have a care what
 you say.

M. They are, why they are Tellers of
 False News — That is plain as the Nose in
 a Man's Face, (*provided he has one.*)

Rev. But what is this to the Proof of the
 News before us ? —

M. Nay I have Proof enough, there
 is the *FLYING POST*, and that's of more
 Authority among us in our College, than
 your Trifling *Gazeteer*, and I tell you,
 your

your *Gazeteer* must be wrong, they were *French Men of War* — *Ipsè Dixit*, see my Oracle, and deny it if you can.

R. This won't do; if we get the Money, our Seamen will tell you whether they were *Galeons* or no — But there's a Booty now for a parcel of honest Men to share among them.

M. And to make them mad and send them all to me, was it not a mad Story, to give the Seamen share, and share alike all they take — which they dispose of generally *the shortest way*; and now the Government loses Two Millions by it, which they might have had in a lump if your Story be true, and the Seamen have been nobly rewarded too; pray how much of all this Money do you think will come to *England*?

Rev. O all of it, all of it, it must come to *England* at last.

M. Pray have you ever been Witness to the Way and Manner of our Sailors spending their Money, when they have formerly taken great Prizes in those Parts?

Rev. Perhaps not, pray let me hear it.

M. Why, as soon as they came to *Sodom*, *PORT ROYAL* I should say, *Sodom* was a reformed Place compar'd to *Jamaica*; there you have the Seamen coming in loaden with Plate, 500 to 2000 Pieces of Eight to a Man; to get rid of this Burthen, they Practice all manner of Excesses, give a Whore 200 Pieces of Eight at a time, 500 sometimes to a Strumpet to Dance naked, and to such Madnels they will rise, that it has been known, two *English* Seamen have come out of a Tavern, at *Port Royal* in *Jamaica* with a Hatful of Pieces of Eight under their Arms, and setting them down, and their Foot upon them, throw them at one anothers Head — D... m this Money said an *English* Seaman to his Commander, after he had rired even Nature it self in his Debauchery, I shall

never have a Moments rest till 'tis gone, I could find in my Heart to heave it into the Sea — *Jack* returns — and begins with Damnation too — I wish I had never had it, I have been Drunk this nine Weeks without intermission, and I ha'n't got half thro' mine, I'll go and give my Landlady the rest, for I don't know where to put it — Just in the nick comes a *Beggar*, and seeks an Alms, here take it says *Jack*, and putting his hand in his Pocket, gives the Fellow a handful of Pieces of Eight — O you Charitable Dog says the t'other, I won't give it away so neither, and away they run to a Bawdy-House together. — Now what think you of our new Act of Parliament, is not this a fine way of spending Two Millions of ready Bullion, when *Britain* wants Money as we do? Queen *Elizabeth* took more Plate than we have ever yet done, or are like to do, but if she had done thus, we had never had so many *Drake* Shillings and 88 Sixpences to Recoin here last Reign.

Rev. There is something in what you say, but it was a good Act for all that.

M. A good Act! If I knew who it was contriv'd it, I would go to him and offer him the Key of my Chamber.

Rev. I dare undertake to make it out, that it is an Act of Parliament of great use to *England* for all that, and may go further to ruine the Enemy, then all the Acts that have been made yet.

M. If they had excepted *Spanish* Galeons it might have been so.

Rev. Why the Galeons?

M. Because the Silver is in Bulk, it's wanted at Home, it should have been brought to *England*, and the Government should have had the Relief of it in this Exigence; the Bullion should have been brought to *Britain* that it might circulate in Trade, and not make *Ducks* and *Drakes* at *Jamaica*.

Rev. I'll answer all this in my next.